

The Rite of Baptism for Children

ORDER

RATIONALE

ACTION

RECEPTION OF THE CHILD

A. Reception of Child This clarifies intentions and presents the child to the community Trace the sign of the cross

LITURGY OF THE WORD

B. Scripture Readings Reawakens faith of all present and prays for the fruit of baptism Proclamation and listening

C. Intercessions Asks God, in Jesus, to adopt child, to give him/her new life, strengthen the parents, family and godparents, and renews all who are gathered. Listen and respond
“Lord, hear our prayer.”

D. Prayer of Exorcism & Anointing Frees from evil and original sin. Invokes the Holy Spirit, and prepares for anointing the oil of the catechumens for strength. Listen and respond.
“Amen.”

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

E. Blessing over the Water Recalls the role of water in creation, in purification, in deliverance of the Israelites, especially in Christian Baptism. Child is becoming a “new creation.” Prayer silently and respond.
“Amen.”

F. Renunciation of Sin & Profession of Faith Parents, godparents, family reclaim their baptismal faith. They publicly announce their promise to pass on the faith to the child. Authentic assent and reponse.
“I do.”

G. Baptism Rite Joins the child to Christ’s passion, death and resurrection and births the child larger family: the Church. Pray silently for the Holy Spirit to claim child for Jesus.

*** Anointing** The child is a member of the royal priesthood of believers.

*** Clothing in White Garment** The child is purified from power of original sin; has “put on Christ” as a “new creation.”

*** Lighted Candle** Light taken from the paschal candle (Easter candle) is a sign of the child’s baptismal call to walk as a “child of the Light.”

*** Prayer** A plea that the child’s ears will hear and his/her mouth will proclaim Christ.

*** The Lord’s Prayer** The child, like us, has been adopted, and is to grow in sacramental maturity as an active disciple of Christ.

*** Blessing and Dismissal** Asks God’s abundant love be upon all gathered Grow as a Christian household.